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HISTORY OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1893-1918¹

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The certificate of incorporation was presented to the Society on June 7, 1893; it was signed by Neumogen, Ottolengui, Palm, Beyer and Angell, and provides for a term of existence of fifty years from February 1, 1893, the date on which it was executed. The Committee on Incorporation consisted of Palm, Dietz, Groth and Dr. W. C. Prime, a relative of Mrs. Slosson's.

Preliminary to its incorporation, the embryo of the Society had

¹ Read at a special meeting held June 7, 1918, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of the Society. The meeting was held in the Hotel Colonial and was preceded by a dinner in which many visitors participated, including representatives of the New York Academy of Sciences, the Philadelphia Academy of Science and the Brooklyn Entomological Society. Letters of congratulation were read from E. A. Schwarz, the Society's only honorary member, from The Entomological Society of Washington, the Entomological Society of Canada and from many of the Society's corresponding members and former presidents. Interesting reminiscences of the Society's early days were presented by letter or in person by Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson, Charles Dury, Henry Bird, Dr. R. Ottolengui, Dr. Henry Skinner, A. C. Weeks. Dr. E. E. Smith, President of the New York Academy of Sciences, spoke of the importance of insects in relation to disease, and Mr. R. P. Dow, editor of the Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, of the future of the Society, urging specialization in restricted fields of investigation. These letters and speeches are filed in the minutes of the Society.

been in existence for about two years. Several meetings had been held during 1891 by Dietz, Beyer, Tunison and Schaeffer, devoted entirely to Coleoptera, at which Mr. Schaeffer had often suggested the organization of a Society. Mr. Dietz, taking up the idea earnestly, finally succeeded in interesting several other men, and on June 29, 1892, the Society was organized with Charles Palm as temporary chairman. This meeting was held at Mr. Palm's house. Those present were Palm, Beutenmuller, Dietz, Tunison and Rabe. They elected as members Neumogen, Beyer and Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson. The next meeting was held after the summer vacation on September 7, 1892, when seven more members were elected, namely: Ottolengui, Angell, Havell, Meitzen, Seibelt, Bradford and Julich. Regular meetings were held thereafter, sometimes at the homes of Palm, Neumogen or Mrs. Slosson, sometimes at the German-American school, 244 East 53d St., and finally, through Mrs. Slosson's intercession with the late Morris K. Jesup, in the American Museum of Natural History. Many active and associate members were elected at these meetings prior to the incorporation of the Society of whom the following survive and are still members: Mrs. Slosson, Beyer, Ottolengui, Angell, Fillion, Groth, Schaus, Schaeffer, Kudlich and Bird. During this preliminary period the JOURNAL was started by subscription, to which Mrs. Slosson was the largest contributor, with Beutenmuller as editor; it was supported in part by the proceeds of auction sales of the insects; here again Mrs. Slosson was the donor of many of the specimens sold. It will be seen, therefore, how important her assistance was in the inception and establishment of the Society and its JOURNAL.

Following its incorporation, the Society continued a successful career for about ten years, with Mr. Beutenmuller as editor of the JOURNAL. The average attendance was about eight persons and only occasionally a meeting was informal for lack of quorum; the JOURNAL was published regularly. Scientific matter of great value was contributed to it and presented at the meetings by Dyar, Beutenmuller, Schaeffer, Zabriskie and Joutel. The late Louis H. Joutel became a member of the Society February 1, 1893; he was for many years thereafter a most valuable member, serving the Society as secretary for four years and as treasurer for five years. His artistic talent made him an efficient member of the Publication Committee and his

wide knowledge of the life history of insects a most interesting contributor to the meetings. By his long illness and death, the Society and entomology have suffered a great loss and one of our few sorrows on this occasion is that Joutel is not with us.

During these first ten years the following of our present members were elected, namely: Shoemaker, Love, Lagai, Davis, Barber, Wunder, Cammann, Weeks, Comstock and Watson, all of these before the year 1900. Subsequent to 1900, Green, Leng, Graef, Southwick, Sherman, Engelhardt and Harris. During this period also the Society became a member of the Scientific Alliance and in consequence is now one of the Societies affiliated with the New York Academy of Sciences, whereby the members receive the weekly Bulltin. The social gatherings after the meeting adjourned became also an important feature that though seldom referred to in the minutes is at least once commemorated in the entry on April 17, 1900: "A very pleasant time was spent yet after adjournment."

The annual meeting of January 6, 1903, in developing two tickets for election of officers reflected a political tinge in the Society's affairs that was novel and for a time disconcerting. Proxies were used and their use afterward disapproved. The Society lost the support of a few members but gained in the more earnest support of the remainder. The attendance increased and a remarkable good feeling between the members was the result. The Society's affairs have prospered ever since. When Professor Wheeler came to the American Museum he became a regular attendant at the meetings, always full of information on every subject that came up. Still later, Dr. Lutz became a member and immediately took a most active interest, instigating the Local Collection, the Environment Symposium and speaking frequently of the broader aspects of entomology, and since the war, Dr. Bequaert, with his intimate knowledge of the flies and wasps of three continents, has added greatly to our strength.

Without attempting to recite the dates when each member was elected, May 21, 1907, may be mentioned as a memorable one, for then R. P. Dow became a member of the Society with most pleasant consequences in the field, at Lahaway Plantation and elsewhere, and at the meetings, where we have heard him tell of the insects of Egypt and other ancient countries and of the entomologists of olden times.

The connection between the Society and the American Museum

has always been a close one and an advantageous one to the Society, for it has light, heat, meeting place, storage for its own library and the use of the Museum, all free of cost, so that all its funds are available for publication. The insect collections of the Museum and its exploring expeditions become more or less Society affairs. Whereby the history of our recent years includes some studies in the fauna of distant regions, Dr. Bequaert and James Chapin have told us something of Africa. Dr. Lutz and Dr. Crampton of South America and the West Indies; Messrs. Mutchler, Watson and Barber have also spoken of the West Indies, while Dr. Lutz again has investigated the fauna of Florida and Arizona. Mr. Davis also has become an entomological explorer in Florida and I have been able to contrast the conditions in Labrador and Cuba. Apart from Museum expeditions, our members have individually wandered far from home, and thanks to Schaeffer, Beyer, Hall, Engelhardt, Davis, Sherman, Barber, Hallinan, Notman, Osburn and Wright there are few parts of the United States unmentioned in the minutes. We also derive benefit from visitors to the Museum, as when Mr. Fred Muir drops in from Hawaii, Dr. Azinoff from Central Asia or Dr. Van Dyke from California.

We have perhaps been more interested in pure entomology than in its economic features, but the latter have been represented by Messrs. Dickerson and Weiss and the too infrequent visits of Dr. Felt. In the distribution of our discussions over the various orders of insects rather than in the concentration on Lepidoptera and Coleoptera only, we have been particularly fortunate, especially of late on account of the interest that Messrs. Barber and Olsen take in the Hemiptera, Dr. Lutz and Dr. Bequaert in the Hymenoptera and Diptera, Dr. Osburn and Mr. Woodruff in the Odonata, while Mr. Davis, though specializing in cicadas, is apparently ready to furnish specimens and information on each and every order.

You must not imagine that such results have been attained without work, much of it so unobtrusively done that it is scarcely well enough known even to members. In this connection I would call your attention to a few men who have given much attention to the Society's affairs; the late Louis H. Joutel has already been mentioned. Of those living, I think Mr. Charles Schaeffer heads the list with three years' service as secretary, ten as librarian and twenty-

two on the publication Committee, making a record of service in some capacity ever since the Society was incorporated. Mr. William T. Davis has been treasurer for fourteen years and the present balance, with the establishment last year of the Permanent Fund, tells how good a one. Mr. Harry G. Barber was secretary for nine years, Dr. Lutz was curator for five years, Mr. Mutchler has been curator for the last four years; the late John A. Grossbeck was librarian for three years, during which time he partly arranged the back numbers of our JOURNAL. Mr. Frank E. Watson has been librarian for the last three years and has completed the arrangement of our stock of JOURNALS. Mr. C. F. Groth was treasurer for three years. At various times Dr. Wheeler, Dr. Dyar, Dr. Love, Dr. Lutz and Mr. Comstock have served on the Publication Committee. The Society has honored the following men in succession by election to the presidency: Angell, Beutenmuller, Zabriskie, Palm, Love, Groth, Roberts, Leng, Osburn, Barber, Woodruff and would have elected Mr. Edward D. Harris long ago if he had been willing to accept the office.

To these men I think that we owe much but there are also some whose steady attendance make for our success, though modesty prevents their taking office. The records I have kept for exactly one hundred meetings show that the following have been present at forty or more: Davis 95, Mutchler 95, Dow 93, Barber 82, Lutz 79, Woodruff 71, Sherman 64, Watson 62, Schaeffer 61, Olsen 60, Dickerson 59, Shoemaker 58, Angell 55, Engelhardt 50, Wunder 47, Nicolay 41, while the steady attendance during late years of Weiss, Notman, Burns and Dr. Wiegmann promises to qualify them later for inclusion in the ranks of the steady.

Reviewing the progress of twenty-five years, the Society may congratulate itself upon an increased, active, and harmonious membership, made up of seasoned veterans and ambitious youngsters, upon its twenty-five volumes of JOURNALS filled with valuable contributions, upon its accumulations of books and money, its happy memories of past meetings and vivid hopes for future ones. It seems to be solidly established in connection with this great Museum and capable of extending its future usefulness in the language of its certificate of incorporation "in the advancement of the science of entomology in all its branches."